

1 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

2 46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John A. Heaton

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8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING A STUDY OF THE EFFICACY OF COMBINING THE PUBLIC
12 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE EDUCATIONAL RETIREMENT
13 SYSTEM

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15 WHEREAS, based on statistics collected by the state
16 department of public education, New Mexico is facing a shortage
17 of teachers as a result of retirements, resignations and
18 difficulties attracting and retaining quality individuals to
19 the profession; and

20 WHEREAS, to address this shortage and to attract and
21 retain quality professionals, the legislature has supported
22 several measures in the recent past, including establishing
23 alternative teacher licensing programs, the teacher loan-for-
24 service program, teacher recruitment initiatives, professional
25 development initiatives and beginning teacher mentorship; and

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1 WHEREAS, research confirms that teacher quality is the
2 single most influential determinant of student academic
3 success, outside of home and family circumstances; and

4 WHEREAS, the lack of parity between retirement benefits of
5 the educational retirement system and the public employees
6 retirement system may be a contributing factor to the teacher
7 shortage in New Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, the disparity between the retirement benefits of
9 public employees and educators has been a growing concern since
10 the 1994 amendments to the Public Employees Retirement Act that
11 enhanced retirement benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, movement toward parity between the two systems
13 may serve to attract and retain teachers statewide and provide
14 a high quality education for the children of New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, members of the legislature have attempted to
16 correct this disparity since 1994; however, all efforts to do
17 so have been unsuccessful;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the educational retirement board be
20 requested to update the parity study conducted in 2000; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the educational retirement
22 board and the public employees retirement association be
23 requested to study the effects of combining the educational
24 retirement system and the public employees retirement system
25 into one retirement system; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results and findings of
2 these studies and any recommendations be reported to the
3 legislative education study committee by November 2003; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the educational retirement board, the public
6 employees retirement association and the director of the
7 legislative education study committee for appropriate
8 distribution.

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